

Exhibit A

1. A method for selecting a route in a network, the method comprising:	Akamai Technologies
receiving data associated with a request for content at a first intermediate server, the data transmitted from an end user to the first intermediate server;	The EdgeServer has the ability to obtain data for “the individual requesting the data” (Section 1.3.2)
identifying a first cost of transmission along a default route from the first intermediate server to a content server, the default route determined using one or more existing routing mechanisms;	“Rather than sending data directly from the Akamai edge server to the site’s central server over the Internet, the system considers a set of multiple paths.” (Section 1.4.8)
identifying a second cost of transmission along an alternate route from the first intermediate server to the content server, the alternate route including a second intermediate server not in the default route, wherein the second intermediate server is part of an overlay network;	“The answer lies in Routing Overlay Networks or ‘Akaroutes’ as they are called within Akamai.” (Section 1.4.8) “For example, one way to get to site X from Server A, could be to go through servers C and D, instead of connecting directly from X to A.” (Section 1.4.8)
determining an optimal route based at least in part on the first cost and the second cost, wherein the first cost and the second cost are determined using network communication performance metrics; and	“The system maintains path performance data, and compares many possible paths to find an optimal one.” EdgeSuite “considers congestion and traffic.” (Section 1.4.8)
transmitting data associated with the request for content along the optimal route.	“The packets from one Akamai server to the next are sent”... while “Akamai’s complex routing algorithms ensure that the best possible hops are chosen – resulting in a fast, and reliable connection between the edge server and its sites central server.” (Section 1.4.8)

10. A first intermediate server, comprising:	Akamai Technologies
means for receiving data associated with a request for content at the first intermediate server, the data transmitted from an end user to the first intermediate server;	The EdgeServer has the ability to obtain data for “the individual requesting the data” (Section 1.3.2)
means for identifying a first cost of transmission along a default route from the first intermediate server to a content server, the default route determined using one or more existing routing mechanisms;	“Rather than sending data directly from the Akamai edge server to the site’s central server over the Internet, the system considers a set of multiple paths.” (Section 1.4.8)
means for identifying a second cost of transmission along an alternate route from the first intermediate server to the content server, the alternate route including a second intermediate server not in the default route, wherein the second intermediate server is part of an overlay network;	“The answer lies in Routing Overlay Networks or ‘Akaroutes’ as they are called within Akamai.” (Section 1.4.8) “For example, one way to get to site X from Server A, could be to go through servers C and D, instead of connecting directly from X to A.” (Section 1.4.8)
means for determining an optimal route based at least in part on the first cost and the second cost, wherein the first cost and the second cost are determined using network communication performance metrics; and	“The system maintains path performance data, and compares many possible paths to find an optimal one.” Edgesuite “considers congestion and traffic.” (Section 1.4.8)
means for transmitting data associated with the request for content along the optimal route.	“Akamai’s complex routing algorithms ensure that the best possible hops are chosen – resulting in a fast, and reliable connection between the edge server and its sites central server.” (Section 1.4.8)